

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

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**LOOK FOR THE BACK TO
SCHOOL INSERT NEXT ISSUE**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Staff Sgt. Caleb Cobb, collections team leader, Nuclear Disablement Team 2, 20th Command Support Command, briefs his peers on the National Technical Nuclear Forensics Ground Collections Task Force July 30 during Prominent Hunt 12, an exercise within Vibrant Response 13, a major incident exercise conducted by U.S. Northern Command and led by U.S. Army North. Task force members collected ground samples after a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation, in support of the nuclear forensics process. Although the Soldiers shown are armed with M9 9mm semiautomatic pistols for security, typically, the Soldiers are not "armed" unless under a threat. The Soldiers are armed as part of the task force exercise.

Nuclear forensics group helps identify attackers

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH Public Affairs

It sounds like the plot to Hollywood blockbuster.

A terrorist has detonated a nuclear device in a major Midwestern city. More than 300,000 have been killed; hundreds of thousands more are wounded or missing. Local, state and federal forces rush in to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining care.

A small team of Soldiers, Airmen, FBI agents and scientists set up a forward operating base near the hotzone and start collecting samples that are rushed off to na-

tional laboratories to be analyzed to help track the nuclear device to those responsible.

That is the training scenario for Prominent Hunt 12, a smaller exercise within Vibrant Response 13, a major incident exercise conducted by U.S. Northern Command and led by U.S. Army North.

Members of the National Technical Nuclear Forensics Ground Collections Task Force, assembled from the Departments of Justice and Defense, with oversight from the Department of Homeland Security, conducted around-the-

clock operations July 26 through 31 at Jefferson Proving Grounds, Ind. During this time, they collected the simulated radioactive debris samples to quickly process, prepare and package the evidence for transport to national laboratories.

The DHS led the planning for the exercise and coordinated the government's nuclear forensics program across six federal organizations with responsibilities for nuclear forensics, which also included the Department of State and the Office of the Director of

See EXERCISE, P7

SAMMC's Nuclear Medicine Clinic receives 'seal of approval'

By Marsha Huffman
BAMC Public Affairs

The San Antonio Military Medical Center's Department of Radiology-Nuclear Medicine Clinic was recently granted a three-year re-certification by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories.

The IAC accreditation is a "seal of approval" that patients can rely on

as an indication that the facility has been carefully critiqued on all aspects of its operations considered relevant by medical experts in the field of nuclear medicine.

The program is to ensure high quality patient care and to promote health care by providing a mechanism to encourage and recognize the provision of quality nuclear cardiology, nuclear medicine and positron

emission tomography (a imaging that detects changes in the body on a cellular level) diagnostic evaluations by a process of accreditation.

"The IAC Nuclear/PET accreditation is a foundation for us to create and achieve realistic quality care goals," said Patrick O'Brien, Nuclear Medicine Services supervisor at SAMMC.

"Because the accreditation is renewed every

three years, a long-term commitment to quality and self-assessment is developed and maintained," O'Brien added.

The IAC Nuclear PET accreditation is a voluntary process and granted only to those facilities that are found to be providing quality patient care, in compliance with national standards through a comprehensive

See CLINIC, P7



Photo by Marsha Huffman

Lt. Col. Anthony Terreri (left), San Antonio Military Medical Center radiologist, and Patrick O'Brien, nuclear medicine services supervisor, examine images on the computer screen from the gamma camera in the Nuclear Medicine Clinic.

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Photo courtesy Collier County Sheriff's Office

When waiting for the school bus, children should know not to play in the street and to stay far enough back from the curb so they can't accidentally step into the street.

Keep back to school safety in mind

By Airman 1st Class Lincoln Korver
JBSA-Randolph Public Affairs

Now that summer is coming to an end and autumn is on its way, back to school safety is something all parents should keep in mind.

Whether this is the first time parents are preparing to send their child to school or the 14th time, there are many things to think about in order to encourage a safe year.

"When my children were younger, I remember the start of a new school year being stressful for both parents and kids," said Marvin Joyce, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Safety Office operational health specialist.

"We found early preparation helped us (parents) reduce the stress and helped ensure a smooth transition for everyone getting in the back-to-school routine."

Some basic safety tips to pass onto children are to make sure they know to always look both ways before crossing the street, wear a helmet when biking and not to talk to people they don't know.

It is also crucial that children are provided a lunch with an appropriately sized healthy snack and

enough water. They should also be aware if they are allergic to anything they might come across while at school.

It is important that parents plan for how their child will get to and from school each day, Joyce said.

"Approximately 24 million kids ride the bus to school every day," he said. "When waiting for the bus, children should know not to play in the street and to stay far enough back from the curb so they can't accidentally step into the street."

"Once they're on the bus, they should quickly find their seats, sit down and put on their seatbelt," Joyce added. "Since school buses make numerous stops, it is important for children to remain in their seats until the bus arrives at school."

Although many children take a bus to school, there are still many who walk, ride their bike, skateboard, get rides from parents and carpool.

"Parents who choose to let their children walk or ride their bike to school should travel the route several times before the first day of school," said

See **SCHOOL, P9**

Experts detect West Nile Virus on post, offer preventive tips

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

The West Nile Virus has been detected on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston; however, a few simple preventive measures can help to abate the issue, post officials said.

"Three sample pools of mosquitoes collected July 18 tested positive for West Nile Virus by Public Health Command South," said Capt. Lyndsay Knoblock-Fast, Brooke Army medical Center preventive medicine entomologist.

"They've since confirmed one human case, one suspected case and no confirmed animal cases of the virus."

Larviciding, which is mosquito population control, will be performed in specific locations as deemed necessary, officials said. If needed, the Preventive Medicine Environmental Health Section will provide notification of fogging dates and times to tenant commands and housing residents.

Meanwhile, the local medical community has been advised to be vigilant for WNV infection.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, milder WNV illness improves on its own, and people do not necessarily need to seek medical attention for this infection, though they may choose to do

so.

People who develop symptoms of severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, should seek medical attention immediately. Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization.

Pregnant women and nursing mothers are encouraged to talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV.

According to experts, 80 percent of patients bitten by WNV-infected mosquitoes will have no symptoms; 20 percent may develop flu-like symptoms such as headache, nausea, vomiting

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News Briefs

Saturday Vet Vaccine Clinic

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic will hold a Saturday vaccine clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 11 at Building 2635. Call 808-6105 for information.

Suicide Intervention Skills Training Offered

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is being offered for Joint Base San Antonio active duty members, civilians and family members. The training will be on the last Thursday and Friday of every month. Call 221-1696 to register, as seating is limited. T4T trained instructors are also needed to facilitate the course. People who have successfully completed the T4T training can also call 221-1696.

Common Access Card Replacement Notification

The Defense Manpower and Data Center recently began sending notices to military and civilian personnel to replace 64K and 72K Common Access Cards currently in their possession. The DMDC is contacting affected personnel via email with instructions to replace their CAC regardless of the card's expiration date. People who receive an email directing them to replace their CAC, or should they receive one in the future and they have not renewed their card within the last 60 days, follow the guidance in the email and schedule an appointment as soon as possible by logging onto <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>. Appointments are available at all ID card facilities throughout Joint Base San Antonio.

Army Benefits Center Civilian Notice

On Fridays through Sept. 21, the Army Benefits Center Civilian counselors will not be available by phone between noon and 6 p.m. The ABC-C website will be available at <https://>

See BRIEFS, P4

AMEDDC&S safety office wins MEDCOM safety award

By Esther Garcia
AMEDDC&S Public Affairs

The Army Medical Department Center and School's safety office has been awarded the U.S. Army Medical Command Exceptional Organization Safety Award for numerous achievements during fiscal year 2011.

The office's primary focus was the importance of accident reporting and the use of the statistics to determine problem areas or trends.

AMEDDC&S saw an increase in overall accident reporting, but a decrease in recordable accidents from 40 during fiscal year 2010 to 32 during fiscal year 2011, a decrease of 20 percent. In addition, more trained safety officers were added to the workplaces to advise commanders and directors.

Responsible for the safety of



Photo by Esther Garcia

Members of the Army Medical Department Center and School safety team gather for a group photo at Maj. Gen. Spurgeon Neel Plaza. The AMEDDC&S safety team won the Army Medical Command Exceptional Organization Safety Award for fiscal year 2011.

more than 2,500 AMEDDC&S faculty and staff, the office also oversees 121 buildings, 101 laboratories, 189 classrooms, 41 learning centers, and five auditoriums.

The school is where the Army educates and trains approximately 5,500 students daily and on average, 35,000 of its medical personnel annually in over 350 programs of

instruction.

During fiscal year 2011, the safety office also won first place in the Army Combat Readiness Center's peer-to-peer video contest.

The 187th Medical Battalion produced the "Safety Strong" video focusing on seat belt safety.

The safety office produced a video narrated by the AMEDDC&S commanding general stressing the importance of composite risk management.

Safety strategic planning included hazard communication, blood born pathogen training, motorcycle safety, sports injury prevention and weapons handling.

"This was a group effort. The entire organization played a part in the award," said Melissa Hastings, AMEDDC&S safety officer.

470th Military Intelligence Brigade logistician receives unique honor

By Gregory Rippes
470th MIB Public Affairs

The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade S4 (logistics officer) received a unique honor in a brief Quartermaster Corps event at the brigade headquarters July 24.

Jessica Lee was awarded a medalion of the Distinguished Order of St. Martin by Col. Ron Pulignani, Intelligence and Security Command ACOS, G4 (assistant chief of staff for logistics), symbolizing her admission into the "esteemed order of logisticians" of the United States Army Association of Quartermasters.

Pulignani, who nominated Lee for the honor, said it recognized her contributions to the Quartermaster Corps over approximately 25 years, including 22 years as a Soldier.

He related that the order was named for a young, fourth-century Roman soldier named Martin who cut his cloak in two and gave half to a beggar. According to the story, Christ later appeared to Martin in a vision

wearing that half of the cloak and commended his charity.

The image of Martin giving half of his cloak to the beggar "is reflective of what our Quartermaster Corps does in support of the Army," said Pulignani, who noted that military intelligence units are very challenging to support, both because of their numerous missions throughout the world and because of the leading-edge technology logisticians must supply them.

"Lee and her team have been phenomenal in supporting worldwide deployments and ensuring their missions will not fail," Pulignani said.

Lee, who served as a warrant officer for 15 years, has served the 470th MI Brigade as its S4 in a civilian capacity for three years.

As the brigade logistics officer, she has played a key role in major, ongoing improvements to the brigade's vehicle maintenance area and facilities.

"I have a passion for my job," Lee said. "After I retired from the Army, I came back because I love working with Soldiers."



Photo by Gregory Rippes

Jessica Lee, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade S4 (logistics officer), points out construction features during the transformation of a warehouse into vehicle maintenance bays for the brigade. Lee has played a key role in effecting major, ongoing improvements to the brigade's vehicle maintenance areas and facilities.

News Briefs

BRIEFS, from P4

www.abc.army.mil to make transactions thru the Employee Benefits Information System. In addition, the automated phone line will be available for employees to make transactions that do not require counselor assistance.

New training support center to open

The Army Support Activity, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, will open a new training support center in October on Garden Road. The new TSC will replace the old facility located in the warehouse section in Building 4196. The new facility will house a variety of training aids to include, graphic training aids and simulators for training. An additional update to the new facility will be modern classroom space for conducting hands-on training, as well as classroom-type instruction. For more information, call 221-1927.

Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel

The Military Personnel Branch of the 502nd Force Support Squadron will conduct an Army Officer Candidate School Structure Interview Panel Board at 8 a.m. Oct. 24 in Room 117B of Building 2263 on Stanley Road. All Soldiers must have a bachelor degree. There is also a new age requirement, as Soldiers cannot be over the age of 28. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/site/protect/branches/officer/Operations/Accessions/OCS/index.htm>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. All packets must be turned in by Oct. 16. For more information, call 221-0885.

All-Day Appointments for CAC/ID Cards

The 502 Air Base Wing replaced the walk-in customer

See NEWS, P6

ARSOUTH Soldiers get a real-world lesson in captivity avoidance, Krav Maga style

By Sgt. Tamika Exom
ARSOUTH Public Affairs

Self-defense tactics based on the human reaction to stress in an urban warfare environment was the basis of a captivity avoidance course held for a group of U.S. Army South Soldiers at the STW Krav Maga gym July 16 through 18.

Krav Maga, a Hebrew word meaning "contact combat," is an extremely aggressive non-competitive defensive tactic system developed and used by the Israeli Defense Forces.

It was created so that regardless of age, gender or level of fitness, a person can learn the system in a relatively short period of time, about 10 to 12 weeks.

"Army South has an area of responsibility that gives them a work commute into Central and South America and the Caribbean," said retired Col. Rick Bassett, a student instructor who recently retired from Army South after a 30-year Army career.

"These Soldiers become targets for captivity, whether they want to be or not," Bassett said.

One Krav Maga principal is to end a fight as quickly as possible.

It focuses on real-world situations and efficient, brutal counter-attacks to the face, neck, groin, knees and eyes, as well as constant striking and kicking to get loose from an attacker.

"This particular class is ideal for any government employee that is going to go out of the country and into a hostile environment," said Pete Hardy, owner and chief instructor at the Krav Maga facility.

"This give them skills that if they are in an area where they could possibly be kidnapped," Hardy said. "Whether they are armed or unarmed, they will have the skills to prevent that from happening."

"This class enhances SERE (Survival Evade Resist Escape) training," said John Sanders, personnel recovery for Army South. "It's a great workout and it keeps you on your toes. I hope I never have to use it, but if I do, it will come as an instinct."

In his past 15 years as an instructor, people have come back to Hardy to tell him they had to use these techniques which probably saved their lives.

"Showing people they have the ability to get out of a dark



Photo by Sgt. Tamika Exom

James Breaux (top), tries to take a blade from an attacking Sgt. 1st Class Kim Lofton, during a three-day captivity avoidance course at the STW Krav Maga gym in San Antonio from July 16 to 18.

place, like a survivor, saves lives by giving them a level of confidence that they've never had before," Hardy said.

"The message I want to get out about Krav Maga is that we are not a sport system, we are a

survival system," Hardy added.

"We put no limitations on you what so ever on how to survive an attack where it's probably going to be an attack that's going to put you in the hospital or end your life."

ARNORTH's defense coordinating element shifts into high gear for Vibrant Response 13

By Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos
ARNORTH Public Affairs

With the Vibrant Response 13 exercise scenario of a simulated 3,000-pound radiological dispersal device exploding at a train station in a major Midwestern city, as well as several other devices also being detonated, the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency began the process of responding to the crisis.

Soon after, an Army North's defense coordinating element kicked into high gear as it prepared to help coordinate Department of Defense assistance.

"Once an incident has happened, FEMA writes a mission



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos

Marine Col. John Yurcuk (left) and Lt. Col. Charles Jackson, both from Defense Coordinating Element Region VII, review a mission assignment request during Vibrant Response 13.

See ARNORTH, P9

MICC welcomes new chief of staff

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs

Members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston welcomed a new chief of staff July 25.

Col. Jeff Morris is responsible for providing oversight, supervision and quality control of staff actions, personnel, training, operations, building management, public affairs and protocol support within MICC headquarters.

He comes to the MICC from the 412th Contracting Support Brigade, which he commanded since its activation in July 2009. Morris replaced Col. Shane Dietrich, who is retiring.

"I look forward to



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins

Col. Jeff Morris arrived at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command July 25 as the chief of staff.

serving in the Mission Installation Contracting Command. The MICC has some great folks, and I look forward to continuing to grow and

learn in an organization that is so focused on Soldier support," Morris said.

Morris enlisted in the Army Reserve in July 1980. He was commissioned as a Reserve field artillery officer in 1984 through the ROTC at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

He entered active duty in 1986 and has served in a variety of signal corps and staff positions. Morris entered the Army Acquisition Corps in 1994.

His assignments included serving as a contingency contracting officer for the 1st Cavalry Division, chief of contracting for the U.S. Support Group in Haiti and contracting officer for the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

WEST NILE from P2

and occasional rash on the chest and back; and 1 percent may develop more severe symptoms of meningitis, encephalitis or paralysis. People typically develop symptoms between three and 14 days after they are bitten by the infected mosquito.

However, experts added, only specific mosquito species can transmit WNV so most mosquito bites don't warrant medical evaluation. The chances any person will become severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston residents and building managers can take a few simple precautionary measures to ensure everyone's safety, according to Frank Martinez, team leader of the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron's pest control unit.

"Many mosquito



problems can be reduced by eliminating breeding sites of standing water and emptying containers that hold water," Martinez said. "That is the single most effective measure people can take to eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed."

Other measures include:

- Not allowing puddles to form on your lawn as a result of excessive watering;
- Placing tiny holes in the bottom of recycling bins without lids;
- Replacing water in birdbaths;
- Getting rid of old tires;
- Preventing bottles, tin cans, buckets or drums from collecting water;
- Wearing a long sleeve

shirt or pants if going outdoors at dawn, dusk or the early evening; and

• Spraying insect repellent on your clothing and rubbing it gently on your face, ears, neck and hands, especially if outdoors after dusk or before dawn.

According to the Texas Public Health Information Network, a higher than usual number of human West Nile cases have been reported this year due to the warm winter and recent rains.

For questions or concerns, call BAMC Preventive Medicine Services at 295-2328 or 2742. For information regarding pets, including horses, contact JBBSA-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Services at 808-6101 or 6104.

For more information on the virus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>.

New post thrift shop opening soon

By Steve Elliott
JBSA-FSH News Leader

From books to boots and from clothes to computers, the new thrift shop set to open on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston has something for almost everyone.

Located in an 8,000-square foot facility at 3100 Zinn Road, near the Outdoor Equipment Center, the thrift shop is set for a grand opening at 10 a.m. Aug. 18, although the facility will

be open as of Aug. 15.

"The thrift shop is a long-awaited addition to the Fort Sam Houston community," said Stephanie Crotty, the shop's chairperson. "This will be a great place for area residents to shop and to also consign unwanted items for sale."

Anyone with access to JBSA-Fort Sam Houston can shop at the facility, but people looking to make a consignment must have a Department of Defense ID, to include active duty and retired



Photo by Steve Elliott

Ryan Michael, a 14-year-old volunteer from Canyon High School in New Braunfels, puts a pricing code on a coffeemaker at the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop. He is the son of retired Sgt. Josh Michael, a wounded warrior, and Daylyn Michael, the shop's consignment coordinator. The new shop is located at 3100 Zinn Road, near the Outdoor Equipment Center.

military, their families and DOD civilians.

"The consignment rate is generous," said

thrift shop co-chair Kelly Oliver. "The consigner receives 75 percent and the remainder goes towards

the FSH Spouses' Club's scholarship and welfare funds."

The shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus the third Saturday of each month. Consignments will be taken each business day from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Volunteers will be available to assist on determining a value for each item consigned. Volunteers are also needed to help out on a weekly basis. Call 221-5794 for more information.

For information about special events or extra operating days, visit the Spouses's Club website at <http://www.scfsh.com> or the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/scfsh>.

NEWS, from P4

services at its main ID Card/CAC issuance facilities with an all-day appointment-only process for all military members, retirees, dependents, civil service employees and contractor customers.

Appointment times are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, scheduled in 20-minute intervals. Changes to existing ID Card/CAC and DEERS services only affect the main DEERS ID Card/CAC issuance facilities at these locations: 502nd Force Support Squadron, Building 367, Fort Sam Houston, 221-0415; 802nd Force Support Squadron, Building 5616, Lackland AFB, 671-4178; and 902nd Force Support Squadron, Building 399, Randolph AFB, 652-1845. Customers can schedule appointments at any of these facilities by visiting <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/> or call the numbers listed to set up an appointment.

EXERCISE, from P1

National Intelligence.

"In the event of a nuclear detonation, the foremost question in the mind of the President of the United States, members of Congress and the American people will be: 'Who is responsible for this?'" said FBI Supervisory Special Agent Terry Kerns, deputy assistant director of the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

The mission of the task force was straightforward.

"We are collecting evidentiary samples after a post-detonation event to do analysis and provide insight for attribution," said FBI Supervisory Special Agent Fred Pflueger, task force leader.

Determining those responsible for an actual attack would depend on information from intel-

ligence and law enforcement as well as nuclear forensics analysis.

From their unnamed forward operating base at Jefferson Proving Grounds, Soldiers from Nuclear Disablement Team 2, 20th Support Command, based at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., headed out to collect a spectrum of simulated radioactive debris samples which were then passed on to the DOE scientists.

On each collection mission, a four-man team, composed of two nuclear disablement team Soldiers, an FBI special agent who stays with the team to maintain chain of custody, and a DOE scientist, collected samples at locations that the task force planning cell had determined based on the simulated plume after the detonation.

The Soldiers, clad in

personal protective equipment, used small, handheld vacuums to capture the debris for handoff.

"Then the DOE takes collection at the forward operating base, screens it, and then it's flown out with a special agent to a national laboratory for analysis," said Maj. Leif Hansen, Nuclear Training and Exercises, 20th Support Command.

The nuclear disablement team Soldiers said they enjoyed the opportunity to perform their mission.

"What we are doing is assisting the FBI with evidentiary collection of ground samples," said Staff Sgt. Sacha Moore, NDT 2. "Every day that I get to do my job is a great day."

During the exercise, the task force was able to accomplish a milestone.

"On July 30, we took the collection samples on

a Black Hawk helicopter from here to a nearby Army airfield and then flew it out on a fixed-wing aircraft to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico," said Hansen.

Before the formation of the joint task force, collection missions were not well integrated among the separate organizations and were less efficient, Pflueger said.

"Now we have a unified front and excellent agency interoperability," said Pflueger, adding that Army North's exercise

was a great opportunity for the task force to rehearse its mission and certify the Nuclear Disablement Team Soldiers.

"It was great working with Army North and Vibrant Response, and we received outstanding logistical support," he said.

Working with the FBI, DHS and DOE has been

beneficial for Army North, said Lt. Col. Thomas Bright, ARNORTH director of training.

"Every interaction is an opportunity to learn," said Bright. "We're certainly learning."

The task force has made great strides, said Brig. Gen. Leslie Smith, commanding general, 20th Support Command.

"The National Technical Nuclear Forensics Ground Collections Task

Force has grown immeasurably in the last two years," Smith said.

"They demonstrated great interagency and intergovernmental cooperation. It took the hard work of all the team members to make this mission happen." collected material and debris ground samples and processed, prepared and packaged the evidence for transport to an analytical laboratory.

CLINIC, from P1

application process including detailed case study reviews.

"This is a voluntary accreditation that we hope serves as an objective marker of excellence for our patients and referring providers," said Lt. Col. Kevin Banks, chief

of Nuclear Medicine Services.

"It is a rigorous process, similar to the American College of Radiology accreditation achieved by our Women's Imaging Clinic, and SAMMC continues to be the only Department of Defense site to hold this accreditation," he added.

IMCOM CG WORKS WITH CIVIC LEADERS TO SUPPORT MILITARY, FAMILIES



Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, greets Olive Anne Kleberg, wife of Richard "Tres" Kleberg, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, at Fort Sam Houston's historic Stilwell House July 29. The historic commander's quarters, built in 1888, formed the backdrop for an IMCOM gathering with San Antonio civic leaders, chamber of commerce members and nonprofit organization members discussing ways to partner for support of military members and families.



Photos by Amanda Rodriguez

(From left) Janis Raznoski, founder of Operation Comfort; Joe Capps, executive director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command; Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commander; and wounded veteran Christopher Leverkuhn take part in an IMCOM reception for civic leaders, chamber of commerce members and several nonprofit organization members at Fort Sam Houston's historic Stilwell House July 29. Operation Comfort's latest Wounded Warrior projects – car restorations and adaptable bikes – were among many community partnerships to better the lives of Soldiers and families represented.

ARNORTH, from P4

assignment and sends it to the defense coordinating officer,” said Lt. Col. Charles Jackson, deputy defense coordinating officer for U.S. Army North’s Defense Coordinating Element Region VII out of Kansas City, Mo.

“The DCO will alert Army North of the help request, and then the defense coordinating element will be activated,” Jackson said. “Once they have arrived on the scene, they will monitor situational awareness and determine if there are any military immediate responders on the scene.

“We are always the support element when we respond to situations in the United States,” Jackson added.

Defense coordinating elements serve as the DOD’s first responders to a natural or manmade disaster. The DCEs are

permanently assigned to all 10 FEMA regions and serve as the DOD’s point of contact to the primary federal agencies responding to an event.

“We are the bridge between the state and federal government in coordinating resources to provide assistance to the American public,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Venable, emergency preparedness liaison officer for Defense Coordinating Element VII.

After a disaster, state governments turn to FEMA to request help in providing resources to those affected. If FEMA cannot provide the needed resources directly, it sends a mission assignment to the assigned DCE requesting help.

Timeliness is paramount once called upon. The process is a quick one and the mission is vital – to aid their fellow Americans when called upon.

“When we get a mission

assignment from FEMA, the first thing we do is determine if it meets regulatory criteria,” Jackson said. “If it does, the DCE works to get the mission assigned.”

Mission assignments fall under three categories: lifesaving, life-sustaining and all others. Once the mission assignment is approved, it is sent to a joint task force to be carried out.

To ensure the DCE is effective in times of national emergency, it is certified annually. DCE VII is currently at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and is undergoing certification as part of Vibrant Response 13.

When the members of DCE VII arrived on the scene, they worked on gaining situational awareness and to kickoff the process of approving mission assignments that would ultimately go to Joint Task Force-Guardian, a command and control

response element composed of National Guard members.

“One of the most difficult things in the initial hours after an incident is determining real information and separating it from inaccurate information,” Jackson said. “That’s why it is important that we remain in contact with the responders on the ground.”

“This training is important because it prepares us to understand what is required in a real-world incident,” said Col. Edward Manning, defense coordinating officer, DCE Region VII.

SCHOOL, from P2

Tech. Sgt. Travis Yates, Randolph ground safety NCO in charge.

“This helps the parents determine the safest route and the travel time it will take their child to get home; also by laying out the route, parents can locate all street crossings and possible danger areas.”

Besides teaching their kids how to travel safely, parents should ensure they are safe while in class. In a classroom of 20 or more kids and only one teacher, accidents can easily happen.

It is vital parents teach their kids how to correctly handle sharp objects, glue and other toxic materials.

The way parents go about starting the school year has a big impact on how smooth the transition from a summer to school mindset plays out.

“Anyone with children knows the start of a new school year is stressful,” Yates said.

“Buying clothes, getting school supplies, immunizations and everything else will push parents to the edge of sanity, but proper planning and preparation can greatly reduce the stress on everyone.”

ECMO still saving lives of infants, children at SAMMC

By Maria Gallegos
BAMC Public Affairs

After a long and distinguished history of saving the lives of infants and children at what was formerly Wilford Hall Medical Center, the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machine is still a vital part of lifesaving procedures after its integration into the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

The ECMO device is commonly used for high-risk newborns and children suffering from respiratory and/or cardiac failure as a result of birth defects, trauma or severe infection.

Similar to a heart-lung bypass machine used for an open-heart surgery, it mimics the natural function of the heart and lungs, allowing an infant or child to survive while natural healing of the affected organ takes place.

Since 1985, the former WHMC had treated 191 ECMO patients with 79 transports from all over the world, with the support of 59th Medical Wing personnel.

In December 2011, the ECMO program transferred to SAMMC as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. The program continues today, as Army and Air Force medical personnel work together to provide the high-quality health care.

SAMMC is the only facility in the Department of Defense that provides this type of medical procedure for infants, with the 59th MDW providing world-wide air support for transporting patients to and from the medical centers.

"The ECMO transport function still remains with the 59th Medical Wing, while the inpatient ECMO care is at SAMMC," said Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael Shoemaker, SAMMC neonatologist and ECMO director.

So far, one patient has been

treated at SAMMC and another patient was transported from the U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, to the Stanford University Medical Center in California.

"No question about it, she would have died without ECMO," Shoemaker said. "Brianna was born on Jan. 13 in a Honduras hospital. Her mother is Honduran and her father is active duty stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash.

"She was born with undiagnosed ruptured omphalocele and gastroschisis (an abdominal wall defect where abdominal contents are outside of the body)," he continued.

"She had some surgical repairs in Honduras but remained very ill and had developed a bloodstream infection," Shoemaker said.

"She was scheduled to be transferred from Honduras to Seattle Children's Hospital, however en route to Seattle, she developed a pneumothorax (collapsed lung) and hemothorax (collection of blood between the chest wall and the lungs), which caused the flight to divert to SAMMC Feb. 8," he said.

Brianna had no chance of survival without the use of the ECMO machine.

"Due to the bloodstream infection and her acute respiratory distress syndrome, along with her illness worsening, it was determined that she would surely die without ECMO," Shoemaker said. "On Feb. 11, she was placed on ECMO and was taken off the machine on Feb. 18."

On March 21, Brianna's health improved and she was transferred to Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash..

"She had a very rocky post-ECMO course, but did manage to improve enough to be transported to Madigan in March," he concluded. "Since then, she has had surgery on her bowel and is doing very well."



Courtesy photos

(Left) 1st Lt. Elizabeth Spataro, pediatric intensive care nurse, (right) Capt. Gennifer Bradshaw, neonatal intensive care nurse and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation specialist and (behind Bradshaw) Lt. Col. (Dr.) Susan Dotzler, ECMO physician, assess and stabilize Brianna Sackreiter on the ECMO machine transport cart. This was the first ECMO transpacific transport since the program moved from Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center to SAMMC.

Cheryl Collicott, the senior ECMO coordinator since 1985, said she finds the job rewarding.

"I love what I do. It's the feeling you get when you know you made a difference in someone's lives," Collicott said.

"The thanks and the hugs you receive from the families you helped in saving their baby's life is what keep us going."

The ECMO program is a multi-disciplinary team of cardiac intensive care unit physicians, nurses, specially trained respiratory therapists and medical technicians who provide customized ECMO care for each child they treat. The program also supports the Graduate Medical Education in surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics and neonatology.



(Above) Brianna Sackreiter was the first ECMO patient treated at San Antonio Military Medical Center Feb. 11. ECMO is a device that mimics the natural function of the heart and lungs, allowing an infant or child to rest while natural healing of the affected organ takes place. (Inset) Brianna Sackreiter is now seven months old and recovering in Seattle, Wash.

Overcoming PTSD

MICC contracting officer gets back in fight to help fellow Soldiers

By Ben Gonzales
MICC Public Affairs

A trip to today's military hospitals reveals American warriors afflicted with many different ailments, including battle injuries, missing limbs and severe scars.

Time and medical care eventually heals all physical wounds, but some wounds leave no physical scars.

Stress and anxiety can take its toll on even the strongest Soldiers. Being under the constant barrage of mortar attack and sniper fire while fighting around the world with the fear of encountering improvised explosive devices or ambush attacks on the road every time you leave the base can wear a person down.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a severe anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to any event that results in psychological trauma, overwhelming an individual's ability to cope.

Symptoms such as flashbacks, disturbing nightmares, increased anger and hyper vigilance can cause significant impairment in social, emotional, occupational, or other important areas of daily functioning.

Today's Soldiers are in their 11th year of combat operations.

For junior noncommissioned officers and officers, a war environment is all they know about service. They face tremendous hardships

that can be extremely difficult to deal with alone, but there is help.

Lt. Col. Rick Skeen, a contracting officer for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, struggled with PTSD and has had a long road of recovery in conquering his battle wounds.

"PTSD is something people are not aware of how significantly it can affect someone," Skeen said. "Coming forward with the fear of ruining a career by seeking mental health assistance is very difficult."

Skeen, the branch chief for the Installation

in the Army were in the infantry. His first experience with conflict was in Bosnia in 1995 with the 1st Armored Division.

He joined the acquisition corps in 2002, and deployed to Iraq three times, each tour lasting one year. In 2003 at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he stood up a contracting office at Baghdad International Airport.

He and his troops worked out of a shed with no power or computers requiring him and his unit to write contracts out by hand.

Skeen's second tour in Iraq was at Camp Victory in the directorate of con-

**"There was a period where
I was so ashamed ...
But if I had not come
forward and asked for help,
I would not be here today."**

— Lt. Col. Rick Skeen, MICC contracting officer,
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Management Command support division, manages pre- and post-award procurement actions, conducts market research, and develops acquisition strategies and plans that directly support Soldiers and their families at Army installations throughout the continental United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico.

Like other warriors, he is a Soldier first. Skeen's first nine years

contracting in 2006. His third yearlong tour was at Al Asad for the Defense Contract Management Agency-Iraq in 2007.

While deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, he was in charge of contracting and provided everything the Soldiers needed at Forward Operating Base Fenty.

His command position required him to go outside the FOB gate to check the status of local



Photo by Ryan Mattox

Lt. Col. Rick Skeen is a contracting officer for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. He manages pre- and post-award procurement actions, conducts market research, and develops acquisition strategies and plans that directly support Soldiers and their families.

construction projects and work with Afghan contractors.

It was there that Skeen realized things were becoming too much to bear.

Under frequent attack by mortar and sniper fire, along with being alone, the symptoms of PTSD overwhelmed Skeen. He had to be medically evacuated and was transported to the Warrior Transition Unit of San Antonio Military Medical Center at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

"There was a period where I was so ashamed and felt like I let my fellow Soldiers down," said the 19-year Army veteran and San Antonio native. "But if I had not come forward and asked for help, I would not be here today. The only way I knew how to deal with things was to rehab myself and get back into the fight."

Skeen credits the SAM-MC staff and counselors with helping him understand PTSD and working

with him to overcome the negative effects of the disorder.

"They got me through therapy, and to the point where I have the desire to get back to work and get back into the fight," he said.

"It is very satisfying to do my job now. I may be far from the battlefield today, but (contracting) is so important to the support of Soldiers, and that's important to me. As a 51C, you can see an immediate impact of what we do every day. If a Soldier needs something to help win the fight, I can get it for him right away."

Working with the MICC for the past year, Skeen has been making a difference for Soldiers.

"Skeen is making a significant impact for our Soldiers, our command and the Army," said Col. Shane Dietrich, MICC chief of staff. "If IMCOM officials need something, he develops contracts to provide the goods and

services that directly affect Soldiers and their families."

Next for Skeen is an assignment to South Korea this summer as he will lead a contingency contracting team. His wife, Shelagh Skeen, and their daughters, Amanda and Elisabeth, will remain stateside.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to come back to work and contribute to the Army any way I can," Skeen said. "I'm looking forward to doing bigger and better things in contracting."

Skeen believes there are still a lot of Soldiers affected by PTSD who should step forward and seek assistance.

"More people need to come forward and ask for help if they need it," he said.

"The medical professionals really helped me, and they can help others in need. I don't regret asking for help at all. Now, I'm back in the fight and ready to go."



CARE Team Training

Aug. 9, 9-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Legends of Las Vegas," a musical from the golden years of Vegas with hits from the infamous Rat Pack. The show runs Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 9-Sept. 29 at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre. Dinner served at 6:15 p.m. with an 8 p.m. curtain. Call 222-9694 for tickets and reservations.

Varsity Sports — Players & Coaches' Needed

Male and female DOD cardholders, at least 18 years of age not participating in an academic athletic association may try-out for a JBSA Fort Sam Houston varsity sports team. Letters of intent must be submitted to the sports office located in Fitness Center on the METC Campus. Varsity soccer coaches' letter of intent is due Aug. 9 and tryouts are 6 p.m. Aug. 13-17 at the Johnson Track. Women's varsity basketball coaches' letter of intent due is Aug. 13 and tryouts are 6:30 p.m. Aug. 20-24 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Men's varsity basketball coaches' letter of intent is due Aug. 20 and tryouts are 6:30 p.m. Aug. 27-31 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Call 808-5710.

SKIES Unlimited Classes

Children ages 6 to 18 can register for piano on Fridays from Aug. 10-24, 2-2:30 p.m. or 2:30-3 p.m. Tennis Camp for children ages 6-18 is Monday-Friday from Aug. 13-17, 9-11 a.m. To view a list of other classes, visit webtrac.mwr.army.mil or call 221-3381.

Back-to-School Bash

Aug. 11, 9-11 a.m., Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, call 221-4702.

Saturday Vet Vaccine Clinic

Aug. 11, 9-noon, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic, Building 2635, call 808-6105 for information.

Outdoor Movie Night The Muppets

Aug. 11, 30 minutes after sunset, main flagpole. Moviegoers may bring lawn chairs or blankets. Free snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy during the event. Call 221-1718.

Budgeting

Aug. 13, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Excel Level 2

Aug. 14, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Post-Deployment Planning

Aug. 14, 9-10:30 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building

2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

HUGS playgroup

Aug. 14, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

Immigration Service

Aug. 14, noon-2 p.m., Roadrunner Community Service, Building 2797, call 221-1372 or 221-9698.

Home Buying

Aug. 14, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Wounded Warrior Sports Day

There will be limited use of the basketball court at Fitness Center on the METC and the Medical Brigade B.A.T. in support of the Wounded Warrior Sports Day, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 15. Call 808-5709.

Excel Level 3

Aug. 21, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Access Level 1

Aug. 22, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Army Family Team Building Level 2

Aug. 22 and 23, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel, call 221-2611 or 221-0918.

Access Level 2

Aug. 23, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building

2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Bowler Appreciation Week

Aug. 25-31, all games will \$1.75 at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, call 221-4740.

3-D Archery Shoot

Aug. 25-26, animal targets are placed at varied distances throughout the wooded course at Camp Bullis. Registration is 8-10 a.m. open to all ages. The cost is \$15-16 for competitive and \$10 for non-competitive.

Dog Days of Summer 5K Fun Run/Walk

Aug. 25, 7 a.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, call 221-1234.

Colorful Contest Offers Opportunity To Win

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Crayola are inviting military children to show their colorful side for a chance at a \$250 shopping spree in the "Crayola Coloring Contest." Authorized shoppers 16 years old and younger can go to <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/Community/patriotfamily> to download and print the official contest illustration and find complete rules. The contest runs through Aug. 25. Entries will be judged on creativity and skill level. One winner in each age group (under 4, 5-8, 9-12 and 12-16) will receive a \$250 Crayola shopping spree.

New Hours at the Aquatic Center

Beginning Aug. 27, the Aquatic Center will open for lap swim only

Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and open swim from 4-8 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday the pool will open for open swim from noon-8 p.m. Admission is free for DOD

cardholders. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 221-4887.

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Warrant Officer Association

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. Call 221-7327 or 475-2565.

Free Missions Baseball Tickets

Service members and their families are invited to the Military Appreciation Night Aug. 22, 7:05 p.m. as the San Antonio Missions take on the Frisco Rough Riders at Nelson W. Wolff Stadium. Free vouchers are available at the MWR ticket office at the Fort Sam Houston Community Center in Building 1395. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 226-1663.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Road. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

Foster a Puppy

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months. Potential foster families need time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months, a stimulating and safe home environment and a desire to help raise a military working dog. Call 671-3686 for more information.

Dinosaur Stampede

The San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, will feature a life-size dinosaur exhibit Sept. 1 to Dec. 31. Call 207-3255 or visit <http://www.sabot.org> for more information.

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Middle School Teen Center Offers Summer Tours

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Middle School Summer Teen Tours for students in grades 8 -12 are in full swing. Activities run weekly through Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For some longer trips, departure and return times may vary. The cost of the trips is \$55 per week which includes afternoon snacks, lunch and entry fees to any activities. All trips depart from the Middle School & Teen Center, Building 2515, Funston Road. For more information, call 221-3386.

Car Buying Strategies

The Financial Readiness Program will offer a car buying strategies class from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2380.

EFMP Morgan's Wonderland Resource Fair

Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information on this annual event, call 221-2962.

Joint Base San Antonio Special Olympics

The Exceptional Family Member Program will hold a Joint Base San Antonio Special Olympics 9 a.m.-noon Nov. 3 on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. For more information or to volunteer, call 221-2962.

Fitness and Sports Athlete of the Year

Service members participating in intramural sports programs, monthly sporting events, varsity or extramural sports are eligible for nomination as the Athlete of the Year. Activities performed throughout the calendar year will be evaluated. An Athlete of the Year will be selected for each branch of service. Nomination packages are available at any of the Fort Sam Houston fitness centers or online at <http://fortsammmwr.com>. The deadline for submission is Nov. 30. Call 808-5710.

Parent Central Customer Service Hours

Parent Central will assist walk-in patrons from 8 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. for registration and

12:30-1 p.m. for out processing and payments. Call 221-4871.

Before and After School Care Registration

Register your child, grades K-12, for before and after school care at Parent Central, 221-4871. Warriors in Transition and their family members should register at Soldier Family Assistance Building 3936 Acubo Barracks or call 916-6377. Registration is ongoing until space is full.

Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT score less than 110. Call 221-1738 to enroll.

Cloverleaf Communicators Club

Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at San Antonio Credit Union, Stanley Road, in the

conference room. Call 916-3406 or 221-8785 or visit <http://power-talkinternational.com/>.

Future Speakers on the Horizon

Enjoy food and develop public speaking and leadership skills the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Joint Program Management Office, Building 4196. Call 295-4921.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets the last Thursday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Army Medical Department Museum. All Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales members are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-4424 or 837-9956.

Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Retired Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344 for more information.



For Sale: Pilates performer exercise machine, \$50; Graco playpen, \$40; baby changing table, \$35; Little Tykes backyard gym with slide, \$40; grey bookcase, \$25. Call 684-8966 or 505-0656.

For Sale: Solid oak roll top desk, matching oak chair and a two drawer filing cabinet, \$600 obo. Call 860-3781.

For Sale: 1996 Nissan Maxima four-door, white, 5-speed, around 200K miles, needs two repairs, \$2,399. Call 659-6741.

Found: iPod, found on July 8. Call 661-0200 to claim, leave message and your call will be returned.

For Sale: Lumber, 2 inch by 8 inch by 20 foot and 2 inch by 6 inch by 14 foot boards and solid wood French doors - make offer; 5-gallon container of semi-transparent deck stain at half-price;

new bike helmet, \$15; new Oakley sun glasses with hard case, \$65; computer desk, 41inches long by 16 inches wide by 28 inches high, \$17. Call 313-0061.

For Sale: New Rascal electric wheelchair with detachable legs, instruction manual included, \$700. Call 661-3765, leave a message if no answer.

Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Aug. 7

CURRENT LEVEL * = 640.3'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

Normal - above 660'	Stage III - 642'
Stage I - 660'	Stage IV - 640.5'
Stage II - 650'	Stage V - 637'

For water restrictions, visit <http://www.502abw.af.mil>.



